

CLAIMS

1. A portable information record capture device having:

5 an information record capture mechanism;

a device memory adapted to store a plurality of information records;

a controller adapted to evaluate space available in the device memory, and
10 if sufficient space is not available for a newly captured information record,
to compress one or more of the information records such that sufficient
space is available for the newly captured information record;

wherein each information record has an associated priority rating; whereby
15 the controller is adapted to select which information records to compress
and how far to compress them on the basis of the priority ratings of said
information records.

2. A portable information record capture device as claimed in claim 1,
20 wherein one, but not the only, option available for compression of a
information record is deletion of the information record.

3. A portable information record capture device as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said priority rating includes predefined permissible compression
25 levels for an information record.

4. A portable information record capture device as claimed in claim 3,
wherein said predefined permissible compression levels are defined to be
suitable for defined functional purposes.

5. A portable information record capture device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the portable information record capture device is a camera and one defined functional level is suitability for printing at a predetermined resolution.

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6. A portable information record capture device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the portable information record capture device is a camera and one defined functional level is suitability for viewing at the resolution of a display of the camera.

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7. A portable information record capture device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said priority rating includes an indication of whether or not an information record is stored elsewhere.

15 8. A portable information record capture device as claimed in claim 7, wherein deletion of an information record in compression by the controller is only permissible if the information record is stored elsewhere.

20 9. A portable information record capture device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an interface for downloading information records from a remote source of information records.

25 10. A portable information record capture device as claimed in claim 9, wherein deletion of an information record in compression by the controller is only permissible if the information record is a downloaded information record.

30 11. A portable information record capture device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said priority rating includes predefined permissible compression levels for an information record.

12. A portable information record capture device as claimed in claim 11, wherein said predefined permissible compression levels are defined to be suitable for defined functional purposes.

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13. A portable information record capture device as claimed in claim 1, wherein an available priority rating for an information record is that the information record is not compressable.

10 14. A portable information record capture device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a user interface whereby a user can determine a priority rating for an information record.

15 15. A portable information record capture device as claimed in claim 1, whereby a class of information records may be given a common priority rating.

16. An index device for display of remotely captured information records, comprising:

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a communications link for receiving information records captured at a remote information record capture device;

a device memory adapted to store a plurality of information records;

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a controller adapted to evaluate space available in the device memory, and if sufficient space is not available for a newly received information record, to compress one or more of the information records such that sufficient space is available for the newly received information record;

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wherein each information record has an associated priority rating; whereby the controller is adapted to select which information records to compress and how far to compress them on the basis of the priority ratings of said information records.

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17. An index device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the priority rating of a newly received information record is calculated by the controller according to predetermined criteria.

17. An index device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the priority rating of a newly received information record is calculated by the controller according to predetermined criteria.